

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims of the application.

#### Listing of Claims:

- 1) (Currently Amended) An aqueous silica dispersion comprising:
  - a) from 1 to 30 weight % silica particles having a surface, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion;
  - b) from 0.01 to 10 weight % reacted aminosilane compound attached to said surface of said silica particles, based on weight of said silica particles;
  - e) from 5 to 25 weight % anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles;
  - 1-25 weight % polymer particles, base on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion;and
  - d) an aqueous medium;wherein said silica particles are dispersed in said aqueous medium.
- 2) (Currently Amended) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 comprising, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion, from 1 to 10 weight % said silica particles;~~and~~  
~~from 1 to 25 weight % polymer particles.~~
- 3) (Original) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 wherein said silica particles have an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns.
- 4) (Canceled).
- 5) (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7 ~~claim 4~~ wherein said aqueous silica dispersion comprises:
  - a) from 1 to 30 weight % said silica particles, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion;
  - b) from 0.01 to 10 weight % said aminosilane compound, based on weight of said silica particles; and
  - c) from 5 to 25 weight % said anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles.
- 6) (Currently Amended) ~~The A process according to claim 4 further for preparing an aqueous silica dispersion comprising silica particles dispersed in an aqueous medium,~~ comprising the steps of:
  - providing said aqueous medium;
  - admixing anionic polymeric dispersing agent and aminosilane compound into said aqueous medium;
  - admixing polymer particles into said aqueous medium;
  - admixing said silica particles into said aqueous medium containing said anionic polymeric dispersing agent and said aminosilane compound; and

reacting or allowing to react said aminosilane compound with said silica particles to provide said aqueous silica dispersion.

7) (Currently Amended) The A process according to claim 4 for preparing an aqueous silica dispersion comprising silica particles dispersed in an aqueous medium, comprising:

providing said aqueous medium and wherein said silica particles have having an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns;

admixing anionic polymeric dispersing agent and aminosilane compound into said aqueous medium;

admixing said silica particles into said aqueous medium containing said anionic polymeric dispersing agent and said aminosilane compound; and

reacting or allowing to react said aminosilane compound with said silica particles to provide said aqueous silica dispersion.

8) (Withdrawn) A method for treating tanned leather, comprising the steps of:

a) contacting said tanned leather with an aqueous silica dispersion comprising:

i) silica particles having a surface,

ii) from 0.01 to 10 weight % reacted aminosilane compound attached to said surface of said silica particles, based on weight of said silica particles,

iii) from 5 to 25 weight % anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles,

iv) polymer particles, and

v) an aqueous medium,

wherein said silica particles and said polymer particles are dispersed in said aqueous medium; and

b) drying or allowing to dry said aqueous silica dispersion that is contacted with said tanned leather.

9) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8 wherein said polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of polyurethane polymer particles, acrylic polymer particles, and mixtures thereof.

10) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8 wherein said silica particles have an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns.

11) (New) The process according to claim 6 wherein the admixing polymer particles comprises at least one of:

adding said polymer particles to said aqueous silica dispersion during mixing or dispersion of said silica particles; and

mixing an aqueous polymer particles dispersion with said aqueous silica dispersion.

12) (New) The process according to claim 6 wherein said polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of polyurethane polymer particles, acrylic polymer particles, and mixtures thereof.

13) (New) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 2 wherein said polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of polyurethane polymer particles, acrylic polymer particles, and mixtures thereof.

14) (New) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 further comprising a viscosity no more than 2 Pa-s.

15) (New) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 wherein said aqueous medium comprises 98 to 100 weight % water, based on weight of said aqueous medium and has a pH of at least 6.

16) (New) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 wherein said aminosilane compound is selected from the group consisting of aminopropyl trimethoxysilane, aminopropyl methyltrimethoxysilane, aminopropyl dimethylmethoxysilane, aminopropyl triethoxysilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropyl trimethoxysilane, N-(2-aminoethyl)-3-aminopropyl methyltrimethoxysilane, (aminoethylaminomethyl)phenylethyl trimethoxysilane, 4-aminobutyl dimethylmethoxysilane, 4-aminobutyl triethoxysilane, N-2-aminoethyl-3-aminopropyl tris(2-ethylhexoxy)silane, 3-aminopropyl dimethylethoxysilane, 3-aminopropyl methyltriethoxysilane, and mixtures thereof.

17) (New) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 wherein said anionic polymeric dispersing agent comprises greater than 50 weight % ethylenically unsaturated acid monomer as polymerized units, based on weight of the anionic polymeric dispersing agent and 0 to less than 50 weight % ethylenically unsaturated nonionic monomer, based on weight of said anionic polymeric dispersing agent.

18) (New) ) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 wherein said anionic polymeric dispersing agent comprises a weight average molecular weight in the range of 1,000 to 50,000.